

forming a positive mold of said lower extremity;

modifying the positive mold of the lower extremity at predetermined locations on said positive mold to provide increased support of the lower extremity at said predetermined locations,

positioning a thermoformable plastic material around said predetermined locations on said positive mold for providing increased support for the natural foot orthosis at said predetermined locations;

wrapping a thermoformable plastic sheet around said positive mold and said thermoformable plastic material; and

vacuum sealing said thermoformable plastic sheet around said positive mold so that said thermoformable plastic sheet and said thermoformable plastic material bond together.

4,447 --39. A method of forming a natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity, comprising the steps of:

forming a positive mold of said lower extremity;

positioning a thermoformable plastic material around predetermined locations on said positive mold for providing increased support for the natural foot orthosis at said predetermined locations;

wrapping a thermoformable plastic sheet around said positive mold and said thermoformable plastic material;

vacuum sealing said thermoformable plastic sheet around said positive mold so that said thermoformable plastic sheet and said thermoformable plastic material bond together; and

trimming said orthosis approximately 3/8 inch along the length of both sides of said thermoformable plastic material.--

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REMARKS

The Examiner's Action dated September 13, 1999 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 4, 14, 15, 17-27, 36 and 37 have been canceled, claim 5 has been amended and new claims 38 and 39 have been added in order to better define that which Applicants' regard as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5, 9, 10, 38 and 39 are presently pending in the instant application.

Referring now to the Official Action and particularly, page 5 thereof, Applicants hereby acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4 and 14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that it would appear that a typographical error occurs in this portion of the Official Action. Applicants are of the understanding that claims 4, 5 and 14 should have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record in that claim 3 has been rejected on page 3 of the Official Action. Should the Applicants understanding in this regard be incorrect, it is respectfully requested that a new Official